

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health to the Thirsk District Council for the
year 1897-

W^r. Chairman and Gentlemen

I have the honour once more to present
my annual Report to you concerning the
health of the District, and in doing so
feel that a generally satisfactory condition
is still being maintained-

There have been 185 Deaths during the year
92 being of Males, and 93 of Females, constituting
an annual Death rate of 14.21 per thousand
of the population-

The Births registered during the year, are of
Males 180, of Females 141, Total 321, constituting
an annual Birth rate of 24.66 per thousand
of the population-

In regard to causes affecting
the health of the District, there have
been 331 Notifications of Zymotic
Diseases within the year but undoubtedly
these do not comprise all the
cases of infective disease which
have occurred within the twelve
months, as very many slight cases
are - not having been medically
attended - not reported at all-

The Notifications have been
distributed as follows:-

Table I	Wicks	W. Longh	W. Longh	W. Longh	W. Longh	W. Longh	W. Longh	Total
Thirch	80			1	2	1		84
Powerby	38	6	2	2		1		49
Wakhouse	11							11
Carlton Miniott	40							40
Cowesby	20							20
Brackentoe	16							16
Thilvington	12			1				13
Newby Wiske	10		1					11
Sutton	8							8
Bagby	6							6
Sandhutton	5			5				10
Thirkeby	4							4
Feliskirk	3							3
Thirby Throule	2							2
Boltby	2							2
Upsall	2							2
Th-le-Phat	2							2
Godbeck Cott	1							1
Glance	1							1
Thirby Wiske	1							1
S. Otterington	1						1	2
Thirby	1							1
Catton		14						14
Holme		3						3
Walton		2	7					9
Sinderby			4			1		5
Sowler Hill			2					2
Thirby Hill			1		1			2
Sessay			1					1
Ellenthope			1	2				3
Junction Cottages				1				1
Longthorpe					1			1
Newsham					1			1
Total	266	25	19	12	5	3	1	331

The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases are as under: -

	Table II		Inf. Cough	Scarfe.	Measles	Scarlatina	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Total
	Measles	Scarlatina							
Thursk	1				4			1	6
Sowden Hill		1							1
Catton			1						1
S. Otterington				1					1
Hewsham					1		1		2
Sowerby					1	1			2
Walton					1				1
Sandhutton						3		2	5
Thirskleby							1		1
Pickhill							3		3
Ainderby							1		1
Skilburn							1		1
Total	1	1	1	1	7	4	7	3	25

Measles seemed to have entered the District with the Christmas Holidays, and continued to spread during the whole of the first half of the year, and required the closing of the Thursk Infant School on March 19th and the School in Sutton - May 10th South Otterington - June 14th - Sandhutton June 14th Kirby Thirskleby - June 21st -

These Schools were closed for periods of four weeks respectively -

Whooping Cough necessitated the closing of the Skipton and Catton School on January 11th -

Scarlatina, required the closing of the Walton

of Sanitary piping across the cultivated ground—

School on 22nd October—

In regard to the Scarlatinal outbreak in Dalton, my attention was first directed to it by finding two cases of Scarlet Fever in Powerby in young visitors from the neighbourhood of Dalton Village. This led me to enquire and inspect in that neighbourhood, when I found that the disease must have been in that part of the District from the time of the Midsummer holidays when it was probably imported; although no notification had been made up to the 4th October; my own being on the 4th—

A desire to blame the water supply as the cause seems to have arisen, and a private Analysis of the well water had been obtained, in which the water was condemned as being unsuitable for drinking purposes— In this Analysis, which I was very courteously allowed to see, a large amount of organic matter, and some suspended matter were reported to be present— But in a sample carefully taken by myself there was not the slightest trace of suspended or deposited matter even after the water had been kept for some time, and in the Analysis made later by Mr. Hailey the note is "Sediment very small and no animalcules"—

The Analyses of the water from the spout opposite the School house, and the spout in Dalton Iron showed that they were, what I had formerly reported them to be— examples of pure natural water—

The pump water being carried in pipes across a vegetable garden from the well to the pump, there was a chance of organic or other extraneous matters gaining admittance, but that danger has now been minimised by the laying

of Sanitary piping across the cultivated ground -
Diphtheria. Cases of this Symptotic of a virulent
type have appeared in Sandhutton having been
propagated apparently by infection - all the
cases have occurred on one side of the Village -
I have already reported that the rear of Bullock's
Cottages is in a most unsatisfactory state, there
being about four large middenssteads for three
small cottages, while the one privy is in a
disgusting condition - The old privy ought to be
removed altogether, and something more fitting
introduced - In its present state it is a danger
to health, and very possibly the origin of the local
outbreak - I believe that it would be of great
benefit to the Village if the whole of the drains
on the affected side were relaid with good
sanitary pipes, having proper Sanitary gullies where
these are not already placed -

One case of Diphtheria in the Long Street
Thursk had evidently been imported from
the Newcastle - One case in Little Bowby could
only be accounted for by the generally insanitary
conditions into which this crowded area so
quickly falls, when the occupants are not careful
to keep continually cleansing -

The sufferer from a case of Diphtheria in
Ellenthorpe had been engaged in spreading
manure just before the attack, the opinion
being that that had been the cause, and
he appeared to have communicated the
disease to his child -

Typhoid - One case occurring in Thursk
was in an infant, no local cause being
apparent, and the town's water supply being
in use -

In a case in Pindaby the person had been away from home immediately preceding the attack but on inspection of the premises it was found that the affected house was at the end of a row of cottages, and in the passage immediately adjoining the drain running under it was blocked, and the sewage was welling up through the pathway, and the cottage wall itself was damp within from the same cause - This state of things was at once remedied by the laying of a new sanitary drain, under the direction of the Inspector.

One case was reported in Little Powerby at the very end of the year and has proved fatal - The water supply here is from a common pump which is evidently contaminated -

The cleaning out of the ashpits being now under the control of the Authority it is possible at last to obtain a satisfactory performance of that duty which, it is to be hoped will lead to some better results than have hitherto been obtained -

The report of the Inspector of Nuisances concerning the ^{regular work} ~~health~~ of the year is as follows:-

Ashpits thoroughly cleaned out - 46 -

Purvis thoroughly cleaned out - 54 -

Accumulations of offensive matters removed - 26

Private drains attended to 32

Township drains attended to 18

Water supplies attended to 13 -

Cases of Fever attended, supplied with disinfectants and disinfected where necessary -

John D. Buchanan, M.D.
Medical Officer of Health

February 5th 1898 -

Thurick

